

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A method for hydraulic transfer printing, comprising floating a transfer sheet comprising a polyvinyl alcohol polymer film and a print layer formed thereon on a surface of an aqueous solution while directing the print layer upward, and pressing an article against the surface of the aqueous solution to transfer the print layer to the article, wherein the aqueous solution has a surface tension of 45 mN/m or less and the transfer sheet exhibits an extension ratio of 1.30 or less during the transfer.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The method for hydraulic transfer printing according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution has a surface tension of 15 mN/m or more.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The method for hydraulic transfer printing according to claim 1, wherein the transfer sheet exhibits an extension ratio of 1.20 or less during the transfer.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The method for hydraulic transfer printing according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprises from 0.001 to 3% by weight of a surfactant.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The method for hydraulic transfer printing according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution comprises a solid concentration of from 0.001 to 5% by weight.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The method for hydraulic transfer printing according to claim 1, further comprising applying an ink activating solvent before the floating of the transfer sheet on the surface of the aqueous solution.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The method for hydraulic transfer printing according to claim 1, wherein a time taken from the floating of the transfer sheet on the surface of the aqueous

solution to the pressing of the article against the surface of the aqueous solution is from 40 to 240 seconds.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A hydraulic transfer printing base film comprising 100 parts by weight of a polyvinyl alcohol polymer and from 0.05 to 5 parts by weight of a nonionic surfactant, wherein an aqueous solution at 20°C comprising 0.01% by weight of said nonionic surfactant has a surface tension of 40 mN/m or less, and wherein the base film exhibits an extension ratio of 1.6 or less when the base film is floated on an aqueous solution at 30°C comprising 0.05% by weight of the base film dissolved therein.

Claim 9 (Original): The hydraulic transfer printing base film according to claim 8, further comprising a plasticizer in an amount of from 0.5 to 10 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the polyvinyl alcohol polymer.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The hydraulic transfer printing base film according to claim 8, further comprising starch in an amount of from 0.1 to 15 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the polyvinyl alcohol polymer.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The hydraulic transfer printing base film according to claim 8, further comprising boric acid or a derivative thereof in an amount of from 0.1 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the polyvinyl alcohol polymer.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The hydraulic transfer printing base film according to claim 8, comprising a water content of from 1.5 to 4% by weight.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The hydraulic transfer printing base film according to claim 8, wherein a retardation thereof is 40 nm or less.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The hydraulic transfer printing base film according to claim 8, wherein a thickness thereof is from 20 to 50 μm .

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The hydraulic transfer printing base film according to claim 8, wherein a transverse shrinkage thereof is from 0.01 to 1.5% when a tension of 8.0 kg/m is applied in the longitudinal direction of the film at 50°C for one minute.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The hydraulic transfer printing base film according to claim 8, wherein a time (T1), needed from a time when the base film is floated on the surface of an aqueous solution at 30°C including 0.05% by weight of the base film dissolved therein to a time when the film shrinks, is from 5 to 20 seconds.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The hydraulic transfer printing base film according to claim 8, wherein a time (T2), needed until the base film dissolves completely in water at 30°C, is from 15 to 40 seconds.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The hydraulic transfer printing base film according to claim 8, wherein a ratio (T1/T2) of a time (T1), needed from a time when the base film is floated on the surface of an aqueous solution at 30°C including 0.05% by weight of the base film dissolved therein to a time when the film shrinks, to a time (T2), needed until the base film dissolves completely in water at 30°C, is from 0.3 to 0.8.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A transfer sheet comprising the hydraulic transfer printing base film according to claim 8 and a print layer formed thereon.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A transfer sheet comprising the hydraulic transfer printing base film of claim 9 and a print layer formed thereon.

Claim 21 (New): A transfer sheet comprising the hydraulic transfer printing base film of claim 8, wherein said nonionic surfactant is at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyoxyethylene alkyl ether, polyoxyethylene alkyl phenyl ether, polyoxyethylene alkyl ester, polyoxyethylene alkylamine, polyoxyethylene alkyl amide, alkanol amide and polyoxyalkylene allyl phenyl ether.

Claim 22 (New): A transfer sheet comprising the hydraulic transfer printing base film of claim 8, wherein said nonionic surfactant is at least one polyoxyethylene alkyl ether selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene lauryl ether and polyoxyethylene oleyl ether.